

The Hong Kong Daily Press.

No. 5626

六二五

日七卯月三十一

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, APRIL 21st, 1885.

號一十二月四英年

PRICE \$2 PER M.Y.



21APR85

SHIPPING.

INTIMATIONS.

ARRIVALS.

April 19. MARSHALI; Gutman str., 1,233. G. Petersen, Saigon 15th April, General—SIESEN & Co.

April 19. SIGNAL, Gurkha steamer, 384, Hundewaldt, Holloway 18th April, General—SIESEN & Co.

April 20. FOOKANG, British steamer, 990, Hogg, Whampoa 20th April, General—JARDINE, MATHERSON & Co.

April 20. CHINTUNG, American steamer, 885, Winsor, Whampoa 20th April, General—RUSSELL & Co.

April 20. WAH-YUEN, British steamer, 313, J. C. Witt, Holloway 18th April, General—CHINESE.

April 20. ESKERDALE, British steamer, 385, B. Taylor, Manila 17th April, General—BUNNELL & Co.

April 20. YANQUES, French steamer, 2,371, Lormier, Marseille 15th March, Singapore 12th April, and Saigon 17th, Mails and General—MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

April 20. CAESARIO, British steamer, 373, Chas. Newchwang 11th April, and Chaofo 14th, General—ODER.

April 20. FUR-WEI-NANG, American steamer, 1,504, Crandall, Newchwang via Chefoo 12th April; Beans and General—BUNNELL & Co.

April 20. KEMMELIEN, French corvette, Captain Fourrier, Pescadores 17th April.

April 20. VELASCO, Spanish steamer, Capt. Emilio F. Butron, Manila 17th April.

April 20. METAPENDA, British steamer, 1,457, J. B. Purvis, Portland 5th March, General—RUSSELL & Co.

April 20. DANUBE, British steamer, 561, Joseph Newton, Bangkok 18th April, General—YUEN FAT HONG.

April 20. FOOKANG, Siamese brig, 300, J. H. Meyer, Siam 8th March, Timber—CHINESE.

April 20. DIAMOND, Johore steamer, 233, J. N. Gary, Singapore 13th April, General—CHINESE.

April 20. WALTER STRICKLAND, British bark, 334, Hanson, Tariant 3rd April, Beans—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

April 20. IDEALO, German steamer, 855, H. Brock, from Whampoa, General—CHINESE.

April 20. SHANDON OAKBOURNE, British steamer, from a cruise.

April 20. CIRRUS OF NEW YORK, Amr. str., 3,060, R. R. Steele, San Francisco 15th March, Honolulu 28th, and Yokohama 1st April, Mails and General—P. M. S. CO.

April 20. GREYHOUND, British steamer, 227, D. Scott, Pakhoi 17th April, and Holloway 19th, General—ADAMSON, BELL & Co.

CLEARANCES.

AT THE HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE.

20TH APRIL.

Archos, British bark, for Chefoo.

Newman, British str., for Haiphong.

P. O. C. Kao, British str., for Swatow.

Pohken, British str., for Swatow.

Fookong, British str., for Shanghai.

Lady Horwood, British bark, for Tientsin.

Chintung, Amr. str., for Tientsin.

DEPARTURES.

April 20. SHERIDAN OSEEN, British steamer, for a cruise.

April 20. TWEE, British double-screw gunboat, for a cruise.

April 20. WIVERN, British tourist ship, for a cruise.

April 20. BLACKADER, British ship for Madras.

April 20. BILLY SIMPSON, British bark, for Tai-wanfu.

April 20. F. C. KAO, British str., for Swatow.

April 20. MOSSER, British str., for Saigon.

April 20. FOXFIRE, British str., for Swatow.

April 20. FOOKANG, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Musso, str., from Saigon—25 Chinese.

Per Keng, French corvette, from Pescadores—Vice-Admiral Baux.

Per Kung, str., from Marsella, As—For Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. John Alfred and son, Mr. and Mrs. D. B. M. M. Chambers, Kowloon, Demer, Bourne, Vincent, and Twiss, from Marsella. From Colombo—Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Dinsdale, from Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Molchanoff, Mrs. Bateman, Captain Bailey and servant, Messrs. J. N. D. A. Zamposo, D. J. Lobato e Farra, A. C. de Costa Deiros and 2 children, Mauricio da Costa, Collofok and Andam. From Saigon—Mr. and Mrs. H. Anderson and Mr. Oberbeck, from Saigon. For Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. Horning, and Mr. Wakayashii, from Marsella. From Saigon—Mr. Deeb and servant.

Per Tsin, str., from Newchwang, As—6 Chinese.

Per Emerald, str., from Manila—Messrs. J. Baro, E. Junco, H. G. Brown, D. Colquhoun, and D. Murray, F. Dolton, and 12 Chinese.

Per Metapenda str., from Portland—Messrs. Forman and Tickerman.

Per Danube, str., from Bangkok—5 Chinese.

Per Diamond, str., from Singapore—25 Chinese.

Per City of New York, str., from San Francisco, As—15 cabin and 160 steerage.

Per Greyhound, str., from Phnom Penh, As—11 Chinese.

REPORTS.

The Siamese brig Fochou reports left Siam on the 5th March, and had light N.E. winds and fine weather throughout.

The British steamer Danube reports left Bangkok at 2 a.m. of the 13th April, and had light winds and fine weather, to Ladron Islands; thence to port moderate E.N.E. breeze and hazy weather.

The British steamer Greyhound reports left Pakhoi on the 17th April, and Holloway on the 19th, and had light S.E. wind with head seas and fine weather to Ladron; thence to port equally with rain.

The British steamer Emerald reports left Manila on the 17th April, and had light N.E. breeze and fine weather from Manila to Lemus; thence to port moderate E.N.E. breeze and hazy weather.

The British steamer Caravane reports left Newchwang on the 11th April, and Chefoo on the 14th. Experienced strong monsoon and high seas to Ouchon; thence to port moderate monsoon, dull overcast and cloudy weather.

The American steamer Fuskin reports left Newchwang on the 15th April, and arrived Chefoo on the 18th and left at 2 p.m. the 14th. Experienced moderate weather and Southerly winds to Sotchou; thence fresh N.E. winds and hazy weather.

VEHICLES ARRIVED IN EUROPE FROM PORTS IN CHINA, JAPAN AND MANILA (Per last Mail's Advice).

West Australian, Hongkong Mar. 1 Lecter (s) ... Shanghai Mar. 2 Dartmouth ... Hongkong Mar. 2 Cassandra (s) ... Shanghai Mar. 2

INTIMATIONS.

BANKS.

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, LIMITED, INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACT OF 1863 TO 1883.

CAPITAL £1,000,000, £20,000,000, IN 200,000 SHARES OF £10 EACH.

REGISTERED OFFICE, 40, THREE NEEDLE STREET, LONDON.

BRANCHES IN INDIA, JAPAN, CHINA AND THE COLONIES.

THE UNION BANK OF LONDON, LIMITED.

THE UNION BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED.

RATES OF INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS:

At 3 Months' Notice, 3 per Cent. per Annum At 6 Months' Notice, 4 per Cent. per Annum At 12 Months' Notice, 5 per Cent. per Annum.

ON CURRENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS 3 per Cent. per Annum on the Daily Balance.

CREDITS GRANTED, REMITTANCES, EX-CHANGES, LOANS, and every description of Banking Business transacted.

CLAIMS ON THE ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION PURCHASED.

H. A. HEBERT Manager.

HONGKONG, 16th April, 1884.

AUCTIONS.

POSTPONEMENT.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to Sell by Public Auction.

THIS DAY,

the 21st April, 1885, at 2 P.M., postponed from yesterday, owing to the inclemency of the weather.

No. 33, WYNDHAM STREET, SUNDRY HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE &c.

BLAUGOOD, MARBLE TOP CENTRE TABLE ENGLISH-MADE MAHOGANY MOK-BOCZO COVERED DINING ROOM SUIT, CRETONEY COVERED BED ROOM SUIT, PICTURES, SIDEBOARD, WHAT NOT, DINNER AND DESSERT SETS, CHINIAN GLASSES, GINGER-PEPPERS, DOUBLE BED-STADS, BED-HEAD WITH GLASS, ETC.

Entire GODOWNS WITH GLASS DOOR, CARD TABLE and WASHSTANDS.

CATALOGUE will be issued.

TERMS OF SALE—As Customary.

J. M. ARMSTRONG, Auctioneer.

Hongkong, 16th April, 1885.

TO BE LET.

TO LET.

OFFICES AND CHAMBERS.

No. 7, QUEEN'S ROAD, lately occupied by

Messrs. JARDINE, MATHERSON & Co.

Apply to

BIRD & PALMER,

Who will exhibit Plans and arrange Offices to suit applicants.

Hongkong, 9th April, 1885.

NOTICES TO CONSIGNEES.

UNION LINE.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM ANTWERP AND HAMBURG.

THE Steamship

"METAPEDIA"

Capt. J. B. Fairbairn, having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading to the Undersigned for countersignature and to take immediate delivery of their Goods from alongside.

Cargo impeding the discharge of the steamship will be at once landed and stored at Consignee's risk and expense and no Fire Insurance will be effected.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded on to Shanghai, unless notice to the contrary be given before NOON TO-MORROW, the 1st April, 1885.

All Claims against the steamship must be presented to the Undersigned on or before the 28th inst., or they will not be recognized.

RUSSELL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 20th April, 1885.

STEAMSHIP "YANGTSE."

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

PAQUEBOT POSTE FRANCAIS.

THE Company's Steamship

"TANNAIS."

Captain Paul, will be despatched for

YOKOHAMA.

TO-MORROW, the 22nd inst., at DAYLIGHT.

G. DE CHAMPEAUX, Agent.

Hongkong, 20th April, 1885.

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SHANGHAI.

TAKING CARGO AND PASSENGERS AT THROUGH RATES FOR CHENG-TIEN, NINGPO, CHEFOO, NEW-CHEWING, HAN-KAO and PORTS ON THE YANGTZE.

THE Company's Chartered Steamship

"NANZING."

Captain Jackson, will be despatched as above

TO-MORROW, the 22nd inst., at FOUR P.M.

For Freight or Passage apply to

JARDINE, MATHERSON & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 21st April, 1885.

FOR SHANGHAI VIA ANONY.

TAKING CARGO AND PASSENGERS AT THROUGH RATES FOR NINGPO, CHEFOO, NEW-CHEWING, TIENTSIN, HANKOW and PORTS ON THE YANGTZE.

THE Company's Chartered Steamship

"NANZING."

Captain Jackson, will be despatched as above

TO

NOTICE.

A. S. WATSON AND CO.
FAMILY AND DISPENSING
CHEMISTS,
By Appointment to His Excellency the Governor
and His Royal Highness the Duke of EDINBURGH,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS,
PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS,
DRUGGISTS, SURGEONS,
GENERATED WATER MAKERS,
SHIPS MEDICINE CHESTS REFILED,
PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.

NOTICE.—To avoid delay in the execution of Orders it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm, A. S. Watson and Co. or HONGKONG DISPENSARY. [21]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed "The Editor," and those on "The Manager," and not individually by name.

Correspondents who wish to forward their name and address with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, will do so.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not sent for a fixed period will be discontinued until countermanded.

Orders for extra copies of the *Daily Press* should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication. After that hour the supply is limited.

BIRTH.—At 3, Richmond Terrace, Hongkong, on 17th April, the wife of Alfred G. Wise, a son.

DEATH.—At Bank Chambers, Singapore, on the 14th March, Mrs. ETHELLYN BENTLEY BURSTON, the beloved wife of Frank Worley, and youngest daughter of the late Rev. F. Pickard, Hogswarth Rectory, Lincolnshire.

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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, APRIL 21ST, 1855.

The extension of Spanish jurisdiction over the Caroline Islands, announced by a Manila contemporary, will, we think, meet with no opposition from any other power provided certain terms be complied with. It is true that the trade with the islands is carried on chiefly by Englishmen, Germans, and Americans, but the islands have always been acknowledged as nominally belonging to Spain, although the Spaniards have never made a settlement on any of them. They were discovered by Lopez de Villalobos, in 1548, and received the name by which they are generally known in honour of Charles II. They are also known as the New Philippines. The statement in the Manila paper is that a Governor is to be appointed, but probably Commissioner would be a better term for the office, supposing the jurisdiction is to be extended over the whole archipelago, for the area is too large and unsettled for a localised government. What is required is a Commissioner, to be constantly moving about from island to island, supported by a small naval force to sustain order amongst the natives and protect and regulate the foreign trade. The archipelago lies between the Philippines, the Mariana Islands, and New Guinea, extending from latitude 3° 5' to 12° N., and, including the Pellew Islands, extends from west to east over a space of 2,000 miles. The islands are divided into numerous groups, of which the Pellew, Yap, Ebo, Siuivine, Lutke, Morlock, Enderby, and Hazeleye are the best known. The chief products—coconuts and another of palm shell, which are collected by European traders at various stations and taken away by small vessels which cruise about for that purpose. What the number of Europeans and Americans scattered over the islands may amount to we are unable to say, but it is, we believe, something considerable. The climate is mild and agreeable, and the easy way in which life may be taken there, combined with a sense of adventure, seems to exercise a strong fascination over a certain class of men; castaways from wrecks not infrequently refuse to leave when opportunity offers. There is, however, such thing as a court of justice or any machinery for the administration of law in the whole archipelago, and as it is inevitable that disputes should occasionally arise between the natives and the foreign traders as well as between the foreigners themselves, it is to be feared that at times acts of armed injustice, oppression, or revenge are perpetrated. Anything in the shape of civilised government about the islands will be heartily welcomed, and as no other power has ever advanced a claim to the islands, the Spaniards may fairly step in and convert their nominal claim into one of actual possession. If they do not do so some other power will be compelled to assume a protectorate, for the trade and interests with the islands are becoming so extensive that they cannot without safety be left much longer beyond the jurisdiction of civilised law. Only a year or two ago Captain O'Kelly appealed to the Government here to vindicate his rights as against the natives of one of the islands who were plundering the wreck of a vessel of his, and in response to his appeal a garrison was sent down. If the Spaniards establish active jurisdiction, they will be the power to be looked to in future to obtain restitution or inflict chastisement in any similar case in future. We believe the natives on some of the islands have acquired a smattering of the English language, and as English trade is predominant in the archipelago, some slight feeling of regret may be entertained that it should not pass under British jurisdiction instead of that of Spain; but the British Government is not likely to favour annexation in that quarter. Spain has traditional claims, and government of some kind is most desirable and necessary. The subjects of other nations have acquired such large interests, however, that their Governments will be compelled to obtain from Spain some guarantee for the freedom of the trade. This was done by England and Germany conjointly in respect of the Sulu archipelago when the principal island of that group was annexed by the same power. Without some such agreement it is to be feared that the trade would be harassed by unnecessary and vexatious restrictions. The Spaniards are very arbitrary in the administration of their Customs regulations, and if other powers did not obtain some guarantee to the contrary, would probably pursue a course in the Carolines similar to that they followed with regard to the Sulu trade before the conclusion of the protocol with England and Germany already referred to. The vessels of traders were seized and confiscated on the China tea trade. The results of last year's tea operations tend rather to confirm the gloomy prophecies of the merchants. All have lost on the whole. Not only have they earned no commission or profits, but there has been a decided shrinkage in the capital embarked. One very poor market is held here, which handled £240,000 worth of tea during the season, only made two paying shipments.

The remainder lost very heavily, and the whole season shows a loss of fifteen per cent on the money engaged. The Australian market is no better, but several Foochow tea men have gone there to try and beat up a market by "drumming" for small orders at a low commission.

The Commission appointed by the Chinese Government to proceed to Tongkin to deliver to the Chinese Commanders there the Imperial Decree ordering the withdrawal of the Chinese forces on the date therein named arrived here on Sunday evening in the Chinese gunboat *Feng-ho*, and was met at the pier by the British Consul. The Commission consists of Messrs. E. Woodroffe (Commissioner of Customs), Kwong Ki Chin, Tee Sheen Ping (District Magistrate), Son Yee Shing, Yu Fu, and Z. H. Vespucci. They will be furnished with a guard by the French Authorities and proceed at once to Tuyan-kwan, to present the Decree to the Vicerey of the Yun-kwei, to General Lin Jang-ki, and to General Pan Chia.

The heavy rain of yesterday came none too soon. The Colony's supply of potable water had been reduced to a very low ebb indeed, as we understand there was only about four days' supply in Potokin reservoir. The Chinese population in both parts of the town are compelled to great trouble for a supply of clean water.

This country also usually need drilling, as the streams coming from them were likely to prove prejudicial to health. The benefit derived from the rain was not entirely unmixed, however, for the torrents being rather heavy, some damage was done. Some of the drains became choked, and the result was that the water burst up in the streets. The pumps were set to work, and the culvert remained choked up to last evening. The new Glass Works also sustained considerable damage, the low-lying ground at Lap Sing was being flooded; and the retaining wall of Mr. Bruce Shepherd's tennis ground was partially washed away.

The French cruiser *Sazie* is to be laid up at Saigon pending the arrival of new boilers which are being sent out for her from France.

The *Sazie* says:—The province of Hainan, especially in the vicinity of Chang-chou, is rich in fossils, the caves which are extensive and deep, being the places where they are mostly found. Captain Yen Yew, of the *Kiang-sia*, has made a collection of fossil shells which he has arranged in a vertical section somewhat resembling a pagoda, hence "pagoda stones." It is the name by which they are usually known. They are also called "fish fossils." We have a splendid specimen before us. The stone is two feet square, and a portion of the fossil, which is exposed, is twenty inches long and two inches broad at the base, tapering to a point at the top. Part of the stone is broken off in the middle, in the shape of an inch thick. Numerous fossils are recommended to consult Chamber's Encyclopedia under "Orchestræa" and "Cephalopoda" and "Pterygiophylacæ." The "pagoda stones" form a good price for these fossils, are of the triple expansion system, having cylinders of 30 in., 45 in., and 72 in., and will indicate 2,900 h.p. The engine is supplied with 100 tons of coal per hour at a pressure of 140 lbs. These boilers are fitted with Fox's corrugated furnaces. As recently announced, the same company are also having a steamer constructed at Middleborough, which will be named the *Chiao-wo*. She is to be launched at the beginning of April and will leave in May.

Russian troops are being quartered numbers are being despatched to Mindanao. Another chartered transport, the *Kostroma*, arrived at Saigon on the 8th inst. from Odessa, on her way north.

The British barque *Elen* went over to Kowloon and the British steamer *Will-o'-the-Wisp* and the British sloop *Thorn* left the Cosmopolitan dock yesterday.

A Commission left Quilon on the 24th February for Xuan-yen, Phu-nu, to mark out the ground for the French concession, according to the terms of the last treaty with Annam, and returned on the 25th.

Another instance of going from house to house now! The Manila *Comercio* has a telegram from Hongkong, dated 13th April, as follows:—The present Governor of Hongkong has been appointed British Ambassador to Peking."

The French sloop *Spirituosa*, which recently arrived from Saigon, has been placed at the disposition of the Governor of the colony, and is to be sent to Kampot, Cambodia, to replace the avisos *Albetea*, which will return to Saigon.

His Excellency the Governor will hold an audience with the Hongkong Government Fire Brigade to-morrow, the 22nd inst., at 5 p.m. on the steps of the City Hall. The Volunteer Fire Brigade will also be present.

The Manila *Comercio* says that Messrs. Ingham & Co. have sold their steamer *Emay* to a Chinese company for the China coast trading. Another vessel of larger size and with all the latest improvements will be required to replace her.

The Agents (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.) inform us the *Glen Line* steamer *Glenesk*, from London, left Singapore for this port on Sunday.

The news from Cambodia is said by the Saigon papers to be reassuring, but it would seem that bands of rebels, some of which are 1,500 strong, are still in arms.

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The following *Gazette Extraordinaire* was issued yesterday evening:—His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified for general information that it has been officially announced through the Council of France at Hongkong, that Your Excellency, commanding the French Naval Forces, has raised the blockade of the Coast and Ports of Saigon.

From Trieste we hear that the Austro-Hungarian *Lloyd's Steam Navigation Company* will probably declare from the profits of last year a dividend of 5 per cent, and will retain a portion of the amount taken from the Reserve to make up the dividend for 1853.

The letters of allotment of the Chinese Imperial Government for 1855 for \$185 for 25,000,000 were posted on 7th instant, early applicants receiving in full, and late ones about 70 per cent to 50 per cent of their applications. The script is numbered 1 to 100,000.

It would appear that Spain has decided to exercise jurisdiction over the Caroline Islands, as the *Comercio* says it is intended to appoint a Spanish Governor over this group. Our correspondents say that the islands belong to Spain by right of discovery. The Carolines include besides other groups the fellow Islands and Yucatan. A consideration of the geographical position of the islands which it is situated on, has come to light, and the case of H. O. Kelly, sees the Spanish Court, and in cases of a similar character, which have engaged the attention of the Carlo before.

The *Straits Times* says:—Various reports have been current in Singapore during the past few weeks that the Government has at last decided to put the fortifications of the war, one of the most startling of these, is that the Government had taken over the Krupp guns and ammunition landed here from various steamers bound to China. The fact is, we are assured, that the local Government has done nothing at all, and in fact is unable to do so at the present juncture, until the scheme of defence has been matured and fully planned at the War Office, and officers sent out here, to carry out the necessary works.

We note by the Army Estimates for 1855-62 that it would appear that Spain has decided to exercise jurisdiction over the Caroline Islands, as the *Comercio* says it is intended to appoint a Spanish Governor over this group. Our correspondents say that the islands belong to Spain by right of discovery. The Carolines include besides other groups the fellow Islands and Yucatan. A consideration of the geographical position of the islands which it is situated on, has come to light, and the case of H. O. Kelly, sees the Spanish Court, and in cases of a similar character, which have engaged the attention of the Carlo before.

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BOMBAY, 27th March. The Afghan field force has been increased from 25,000 to 60,000.

BOMBAY, 26th March. The Central News says that the British Garrison in India is to be largely reinforced. The reinforcements will probably consist of twenty-three regiments of infantry, three regiments of cavalry, two batteries of field artillery and eighteen batteries of horse artillery. Thirty transports are being got ready to convey troops to India.

England is sending the Swift Atlantic Liner, the Arizona, America, Oregon, and Alaska, and several other fast-going steamers.

British orders have exhausted all supplies of coal at Chicago.

Attempts of the Russian Government to purchase swift steamers in England through private agency have been frustrated.

The *Notre Dame* says that Australasia is in a position in which Russian cruisers could strike an effective blow at British shipping and commerce.

There has been a panic on the Paris Bourse, and a great fall in the price of Russian stocks.

England demands that the Russian Government should forthwith submit a report of the trespasses alleged to have been committed by the Afghans for the violation of the Boundary Commission.

The Channel Fleet has suddenly returned, and the incident has caused considerable excitement.

A fleet consisting of nine ironclads, twenty-four frigates and thirty-six torpedo boats is being equipped with the utmost despatch for service in the Baltic.

It is reported that a Turkish force consisting of 8,000 men will occupy Shinkia after General Gribaudi has smashed the French Ottoman Dignity, and that the Guards be enabled to proceed to India.

The Russian people are alarmed at the prospect of war with England.

A special telegram to the *Bombay Gazette* says that it is asserted in French diplomatic circles that an official declaration of war is intended to send an expedition of 50,000 troops to Peking.

LONDON, 29th March. Orders have been given at Portsmouth and Devonport dockyards to put in commission the *Inflexible*, the *Dreadnought*, the *Superb*, the *Cylops*, six corvettes and seventeen gun-boats and all available torpedo boats.

It is reported that a Baltic fleet will be organized immediately.

LONDON, 30th March. The British Government is chartering liners to be used as armed cruisers.

MELBOURNE, 29th March. Torpedoes have been laid and other defensive measures taken at all the Australian ports.

THE WAR IN THE SOUDAN. MADRAS, 29th March. Intelligence has been received here of the death in the Soudan in the action of the 22nd March of Capt. Romilly, E.E., and Lieut. Newman, R.E., of the Madras Sappers and Miners. Two other Royal Engineers officers are being sent out to replace the deceased.

ROMILLY, 28th March. Lord Wolseley has arrived at Dorgola.

THE CANADIAN PACIFIC. MADRAS, 28th March. The Heddawons have been defeated near Kassala by the Beni Ameras, a friendly tribe. Kassala is still holding out.

DORGOLA, 29th March. Lord Wolseley and Lord Charles Beresford leave here for Cairo to-morrow, and it is reported that from thence they will proceed to Suez.

SUAKIM, 31st March. A spy from Tamai reports that the followers of Osman Digna are deserting in large numbers.

SUAKIM, 31st March, 9 p.m. Special spies returning from Hasheen and their report that the enemy has evacuated the Upper Nile, the capital of those places.

The cavalry will therefore be sent to reconnoitre Tamai to-morrow.

A reconnaissance made in the direction of Hasheen to-day found only a few of the enemy, who retired on the approach of our men.

A general advance of our troops is therefore postponed.

The construction of the railway line in the direction of Hamdab continues.

SAKHAH, 31st March. News has been received here that the rebels are in possession of El Obed.

STAMFORD, 1st April, 9 a.m. The cavalry this morning made a reconnaissance as far as Tamai, where they discovered a large force of the enemy. All the troops except the 1st Bengal Infantry, who will be left behind to garrison Suakim, will therefore proceed at daybreak to-morrow towards Tamai.

A battle with the rebels is expected on the 1st April.

SAKHAH, 31st March. The reconnoitring party returned last evening to Suakim after finding only a few of the enemy in this neighbourhood.

A force consisting of a brigade of Guards, the 2nd Berkshire, the 1st Bengal, the 1st Royal Irish, the 1st Lancashire Fusiliers, and the 1st Royal Fusiliers will take up its position at Tamai to-day, and a bridge will be obtained over the river to enable the troops to cross it.

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